



Minutes of the ByCycle Quarterly Meeting

Held in person and on Microsoft Teams 15th January 2025

At Auchterarder Sports Pavillion, Public Park, Western Road, PH3 1JH

Present: Kirsty Ellis, Tony McCandless, Ian Fraser, Sara Davies, Katharine Melville, Aileen Walker, Mike Simm, Lewis Simpson, Gerry Burke, Richie Neill, Susannah Rae, Gina O'Neill, Margaret Scott, Gordon McFarlane

Apologies: Shelagh Fulton, Kirsteen Ross, Victoria Robb, David Lyle, Brad Murphy, Alasdair Dutton

1. Welcome and Apologies Kirsty Ellis opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and covered apologies. She also thanked Tony for providing use of the Pavillion.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were accepted. Proposed by Ian Fraser and Seconded by Katharine Melville.

3. Update on Committee Business

3.1 Big Ride

Ian Fraser updated that research has been undertaken to find a removal company to assist with the proposed ride, Howes removals seem keen and to provide a quote. Their owner is a mountain biker and done similar events before, so within their remit. Will await quote and van options to decide on route for Big Ride 2025. If not possible then a circular route will be planned. Tom Collier clarified that this will be a different route than 2024s if this option is chosen.

3.2 Rides Organisation Ian Fraser shared that there are 11 or 12 people booked for the Sunday from Bells Sports Centre at 9.45 for a 10am departure. Katharine clarified that rides have always been 10 for 10.15 and Ian confirmed that the ride hasn't changed so would be 10 for 10.15.

Kirsty Ellis leading Februarys ride and the route is TBC. Gina and Damien to lead March ride.

Ian proposed to change the dates in April and June because of clashes with Easter and Fathers day. No objections and will now be April 27th and June 22nd. Ride details will be advertised on website and all updates on Spond.

Discussed a request from member for shorter rides and whether rides can be amended to suit members who can't do the longer ones do to age. Good discussion took place about offering two rides on same day, but would need additional leaders, or whether current shorter rides in winter and longer ones in summer appropriate. Suggestion from Katharine that shorter rides for Wednesday ride and longer ones on Sundays could be option. Ian to review and consider with ride leaders for planning future rides. Gerry raised point that the difference between Wednesday and Sunday is explained on website, and raised point it is difficult to accommodate everyone and tick all the boxes. Gordon raised idea to alternative rides to give everyone a choice, but was said that with only 12 rides a year this may be difficult. Also winter rides already shorter. Katharine mentioned that she has noted the Wednesday rides gradually getting loner, to 15-16 miles, where once over 12 some people may struggle.

Ian will be issuing updated information sheets to ride leaders to clarify responsibilities, and requests names of anyone wanting to be a ride leader. All ride details will be listed on Spond, which can be accessed via computer as well as app. Ride routes have been added to website using mapometer, if anyone has rides they want to add on website, please share so we can promote the options for cycling in Perthshire.

3.3 Active Travel Manifesto

Tom Collier explained that we had been asked to be signatories on the Cycling UK active travel manifesto ahead of the next Scottish elections, likely to be held in 2026. Kirsty Ellis summarised the key points of the manifesto and discussion held about aim of manifesto, Tony raised whether it would be across the political spectrum or could be used in political point scoring. Lewis confirmed it had been deliberately vanilla in it's design to be cross party, to be a starting point for political engagement and had suggested to launch in Perth area as we sit in the FMs constituency. Kirsty asked for objections to putting our signatory on it, none raised. Kirsty asked for any concerns or objections to be emailed by 22nd January 2025.

3.4 Campaigns and Stakeholder Engagement

3.4.1 Lewis shared that some organisations have not updated as are just getting up and running in 2025. Brian Stephenson has given an updated from Scone palace, raising points about what works had been agreed as part of the CTRLR project, but have not happened and likely not too now. Has written to PKC for clarification but received no response yet.

Lewis said that there is one more community engagement event for CTRLR on 29th January to get a final update before project finishes. Tony shared that in Auchterarder they had a similar issue with house builders, with commitments not being followed through and to check planning documents and they had success engaging with council.

3.4.2 Susannah Rae shared update that from spring PKC will be implementing 20mph national strategy. Mitigation measures are being introduced for communities who will see increased traffic from opening of CTRLR, including the extension of 40mph walking and cycling friendly green route on the Upper Carse.

Increased cycle parking and storage will be introduced around Perth, from grant funding by Cycling Scotland. This will include trial of secure, bookable bike parking at West Kinfauns and Broxden. Plus for some flats belonging to PKC Housing and also trial for private flats.

Consultation under way for residents by Kinross park and ride, to seek options for secure and standard bike parking. This follows on from consultation with cycling groups in the area.

A feasibility study for Tay street is still planned, however there has been a delay with the consultants.

Lewis confirmed that offer of a meeting between Susannah and her colleague, Blair will be taken up and arranged.

Discussion had about previous use of “friends of ByCycle” as shared by Katharine, Tony suggested he had contacts and could share for ByCycle purposes.

Debate held about 20mph roads and whether they work without enforcement, but data suggests they do reduce speed. Segregated infrastructure preferable to unenforced 20mph zones, but acknowledged there is a cost and depends on political will, recommended to write to councillors to highlight this.

Also discussed provision buses have overseas for bike carrying, and whether this should be explored vs the bike parking at bus stops. Depending on whether users need bike at both ends of journey. Also raised about whether bike storage is now suitable for size of E-bikes or Cargo bikes. Question about how use of bike parking monitored, Susannah said that some can be captured but some will be depending on cycling groups and users reporting usage.

Suggestion that whether working with PT Unit and Stagecoach could be explored to discuss options. Susannah to provide contact.

4. Open forum/ AOB

4.1 Sustrans success Katharine shared some success from Sustrans volunteers who have been campaigning for flooding at the Culvert on RR83 south of Ballinluig. Proper drains and cones and barriers have been removed. Thank you to be placed on website to Bear.

4.2. ACSR Cycle Hub Tony shared that they have broken ground on new pump track from funds raised and will be finished in 8 weeks time with a public opening to take place. Anyone free to give it a go. They now have a tri-shaw and taking people out from care homes. Also have a fully functioning workshop.

21st June provisional date for a Cycle day. Clan (with Danny MacAskill) attending, last time they held it had around 400 people attend. And will confirm date. Tom asked whether could tie in ByCycle Sunday ride as scheduled for 22nd, and could move to Saturday. Tony, Ian, Kirsty to review.

4.3. Amey contact Katharine had been contacted by Amey regarding Eco Innovation park. Agreed for Lewis to take on with them, Katharine to communicate change of contact with them.

5. Date of Next Meeting Will be Wednesday 16th April 2025. Held at Perth Congregational Church, Murray Street, Perth, PH1 5EX.

6. Close Kirsty closed the meeting, thanking everybody.